

REMARKS

Amendments are being made to the present application in response to the Office Action. The parent patent number is being added to the section entitled "Cross Reference to Related Application." Claim 15 is being amended in the manner suggested in the Office Action to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 21 – 26, rejected on prior art grounds, are being cancelled, without prejudice.

New claims 27 – 33 are directed to the same subject matter as claims 15 – 20 but in a different scope. A number of units of data in excess of the number for which individual memory cell groups are configured to handle, are stored in the groups without the overhead data. The overhead data are stored in separate memory cell groups. New claim 27 is believed to be patentable for this reason, and thus also its dependent claims 28 – 33.

Accordingly, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and an early indication of its allowance is solicited. However, if the Examiner has any further matters that need to be resolved, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney at 415-318-1163 would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald P. Parsons
Reg. No. 24,486

February 28, 2005

Date

PARSONS HSUE & DE RUNTZ LLP
655 Montgomery Street, Suite 1800
San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) 318-1160 (main)
(415) 318-1163 (direct)
(415) 693-0194 (fax)